2001 Census of Canada

Nova Scotia Perspective

Release # 5

Ethnic Origin, Citizenship and Immigration and Aboriginal Peoples

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Finance
Statistics Division

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NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2001 CENSUS OF CANADA

Immigration

- In Canada, the foreign-born population as a proportion of the total population is at its highest point in seventy years. During the same period the proportion of immigrants in Nova Scotia has fallen to nearly half of what it was in 1931.

- Since 1951 the proportion of immigrants in the Nova Scotia population has been very stable. It has remained between 4.5% and 5.0% of the total population for 50 years. In 2001 the immigrant population numbered 41,320 or 4.6% of the population. The highest proportion of 8.3% was reached in 1921 while the lowest proportion of 4.4% occurred in 1991.

- There were 5.4 million immigrants in Canada in 2001 representing 18.4% of the population. The Canadian rate was highest in 1921 at 22.3% and lowest in 1951 at 14.7%. During the latest ten year period (1991-2001) the proportion of immigrants has risen 2.3 percentage points at the nation level and 0.2 percentage points in Nova Scotia.

- Immigrants that settled in Nova Scotia have traditionally come from the United Kingdom, United States and Europe. During the ten year period (1961 to 1970) 61.5% of immigrants were from Europe, 36.5% were from the United Kingdom, 18% were from the United States, 13.0% were from Asia and 3.0% were from the Middle East. The origin of immigrants to Nova Scotia has changed significantly over thirty years. The latest ten year period shows that 45.0% of immigrants were from Asia, 29.3% were from Europe, 21.9% were from the Middle East, 11.8% were from the United States and 6.8% were from the United Kingdom.

- Slightly more females than males have immigrated to Nova Scotia. Females represented 52% of immigrants while males made up 48%.

- Most immigrants who settled in Nova Scotia were aged twenty years or more when they immigrated (59.8%) but 12.2% were under five years of age and 28.0% were between five and nineteen years of age.

- The large metropolitan areas of Canada attract the vast majority of immigrants. Nearly 73% of immigrants who came to Canada in the last decade settled in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. Only 0.4% settled in Halifax during that period.

- Most immigrants to Nova Scotia have settled in Halifax County and the central mainland. Halifax County was home to 59.0% of immigrants, followed by 6.3% in Kings County and 4.9% in Lunenburg County.

Ethnic Origin and Visible Minority

- The top ethnic origins reported in Nova Scotia are reflective of the historical settlement by peoples from the British Isles, France and other European countries. The vast majority of people reported these countries as either their single ethnic origin or as part of a multiple ethnic origin.

- In 2001, over Half (50.7%) of Nova Scotians indicated Canadian as their single ethnic origin, followed by British Isles (30.8%), European (7.2%) and French (5.5%).

- There were 34,525 people, or 3.8% of the provincial population, classified as visible minorities. Blacks represented more than half (57.0%) of the visible minority population, followed by Arabs (10.5%), Chinese (9.5%) and South Asians (8.4%).

- Most visible minorities lived in the Halifax Metropolitan Area. In 2001 there were 25,100 visible minorities representing 72.7% of the provincial visible minority population living in Halifax CMA. Visible minorities made up 7% of the population of Halifax, up from 6% in 1991.

Aboriginal Peoples

- In 2001 there were 17,015 people in Nova Scotia with an Aboriginal identity representing 1.9% of the total provincial population. In 1996 there were 11,985 people with an Aboriginal identity representing 1.3% of the total population. This growth is much higher than that found in the population as a whole at both the provincial and national level.

- Registered Indians made up 63.9% of the Aboriginal identity population.

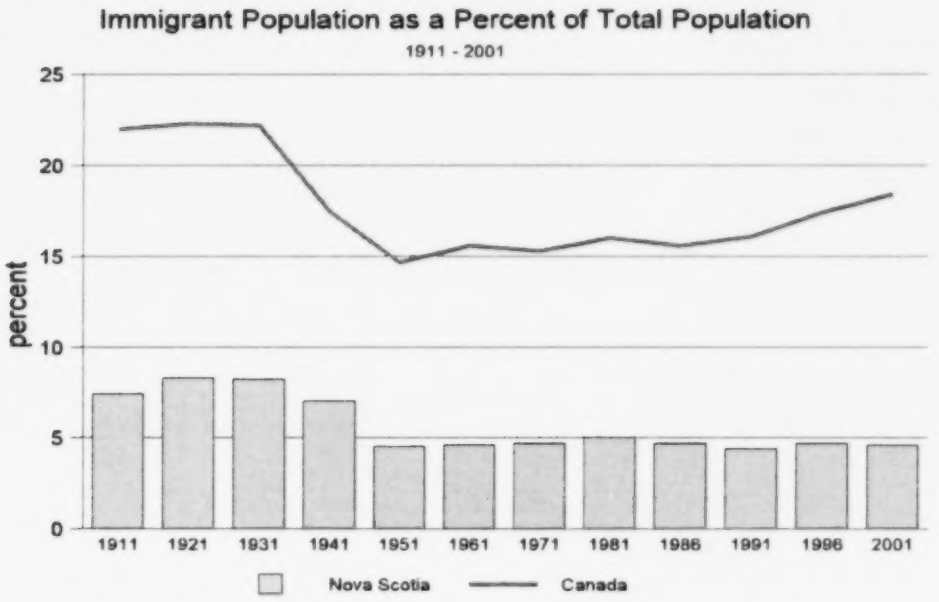
- Less than half (43.3%) of the Aboriginal identity population in the province live on reserve. Of the 56.7% who live off reserve half live in rural areas and half live in urban areas.

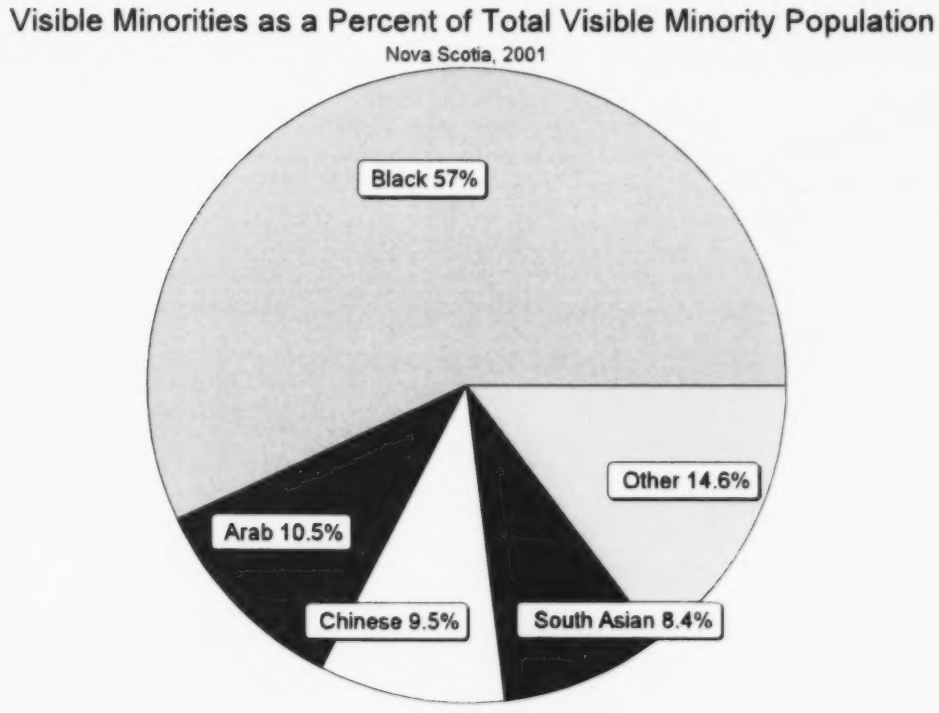
- The largest reserve in Nova Scotia is Eskasoni with an aboriginal population of 2,720 people followed by Indian Brook with 905 people, Whycocomagh with 630 people and Millbrook with 615 people. There are twenty-four reserves in the province.

- The Aboriginal population is much younger than the population as a whole. The median age for Nova Scotia's Aboriginal population in 2001 was 25.3 years while the median age for the Non-Aboriginal population was 38.7 years.

Additional Information

Statistics Canada's next scheduled release date for data from the 2001 Census is February 11, 2003. This release will cover labour force activity. Further information is available by contacting the Statistics Division, Nova Scotia Department of Finance at 902-424-5691


Immigrant Population as a Percent of Total Population
1911 - 2001
25
20
15
10
5
0
percent
1911
1921
1931
1941
1951
1961
1971
1981
1986
1991
1996
2001
Nova Scotia
Canada


Visible Minorities as a Percent of Total Visible Minority Population
Nova Scotia, 2001
Black 57%
Other 14.6%
Arab 10.5%
Chinese 9.5%
South Asian 8.4%

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Visible Minority Population-Nova Scotia
1996 and 2001

	1996		2001	
Total visible minority population	**31,320**	**100.0%**	**34,525**	**100.0%**
Chinese	3,210	10.2%	3,285	9.5%
South Asian	3,295	10.5%	2,890	8.4%
Black	18,110	57.8%	19,670	57.0%
Filipino	615	2.0%	655	1.9%
Latin American	315	1.0%	520	1.5%
Southeast Asian	680	2.2%	795	2.3%
Arab/West Asian	3,745	12.0%	4,000	11.6%
Korean	295	0.9%	585	1.7%
Japanese	360	1.1%	420	1.2%
Visible minority, n.i.e.	250	0.8%	1,170	3.4%
Multiple visible minorities	450	1.4%	535	1.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada

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Ethnic Origin by Single and Multiple Responses
Nova Scotia, 2001

	Single responses	%	Multiple responses	Total - Single and multiple responses
Total - Ethnic origin	**496,075**	**100.0%**	**401,495**	**897,585**
British Isles origins	152,820	30.8%	338,735	491,555
English	65,875	13.3%	186,595	252,470
Irish	23,445	4.7%	155,145	178,585
Scottish	60,910	12.3%	202,150	263,060
Welsh	1,085	0.2%	11,165	12,245
French origins	27,160	5.5%	128,025	155,180
Acadian	2,790	0.6%	8,385	11,180
French	24,370	4.9%	125,415	149,785
Aboriginal origins	9,675	2.0%	23,735	33,415
North American origins	252,270	50.9%	177,055	429,330
United States	405	0.1%	3,980	4,385
Canadian	251,350	50.7%	174,530	425,880
Caribbean origins	655	0.1%	2,015	2,665
Latin, Central and South American origins	295	0.1%	645	950
European origins	35,625	7.2%	125,995	161,625
Western European origins	23,220	4.7%	92,590	115,810
Dutch (Netherlands)	6,095	1.2%	28,935	35,035
German	16,350	3.3%	73,110	89,460
Northern European origins	1,290	0.3%	8,995	10,285
Scandinavian origins	1,180	0.2%	8,660	9,835
Eastern European origins	4,540	0.9%	16,155	20,695
Polish	1,865	0.4%	6,895	8,760
Russian	340	0.1%	2,165	2,500
Ukrainian	1,220	0.2%	5,080	6,305
Southern European origins	5,220	1.1%	15,830	21,050
Italian	2,150	0.4%	9,085	11,240
Other European origins	1,360	0.3%	3,230	4,590
Jewish	1,055	0.2%	2,845	3,900
African origins	4,175	0.8%	6,265	10,440
Arab origins	5,610	1.1%	3,815	9,425
South Asian origins	2,445	0.5%	1,075	3,515
East Indian	1,920	0.4%	945	2,860
East and Southeast Asian origins	4,650	0.9%	1,795	6,450
Chinese	2,580	0.5%	1,095	3,675

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada

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Nova Scotia Immigrant Population by Place of Birth and Period of Immigration

Place of Birth	Immigrant Population		Before 1961		1961-1970		1971-1980		1981-1990		1991-2001		1996-2001	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Americas	9780	23.7%	1385	14.5%	1,575	22.3%	3175	39.0%	1915	30.5%	1,735	16.9%	965	16.8%
United States	8,065	19.5%	1160	12.1%	1,270	18.0%	2,835	34.8%	1,585	25.3%	1,215	11.8%	605	10.5%
Europe	21,060	51.0%	7810	81.7%	4,345	61.5%	3,505	43.1%	2,385	38.0%	3,015	29.3%	1,495	26.0%
Western Europe	5,395	13.1%	2210	23.1%	775	11.0%	495	6.1%	790	12.6%	1,115	10.8%	505	8.8%
Germany	2,460	6.0%	640	6.7%	360	5.1%	270	3.3%	535	8.5%	665	6.5%	330	5.7%
Netherlands	1,975	4.8%	1370	14.3%	230	3.3%	125	1.5%	125	2.0%	125	1.2%	45	0.8%
Eastern Europe	1,790	4.3%	430	4.5%	215	3.0%	130	1.6%	410	6.5%	600	5.8%	245	4.3%
Northern Europe	11,730	28.4%	4560	47.7%	2,775	39.3%	2,515	30.9%	1,105	17.6%	775	7.5%	355	6.2%
United Kingdom	10,800	26.1%	4180	43.7%	2,575	36.5%	2,335	28.7%	1,010	16.1%	700	6.8%	310	5.4%
Asia	8,710	21.1%	250	2.6%	925	13.1%	1,210	14.9%	1,700	27.1%	4,630	45.0%	2,700	47.0%
West Central Asia and the Middle East	3,940	9.5%	115	1.2%	225	3.2%	480	5.9%	625	10.0%	2,485	24.1%	1,460	25.4%
Middle East	3,510	8.5%	110	1.2%	210	3.0%	435	5.3%	505	8.0%	2,255	21.9%	1,255	21.8%
Lebanon	1,460	3.5%	90	0.9%	205	2.9%	415	5.1%	425	6.8%	330	3.2%	90	1.6%
Eastern Asia	1,985	4.8%	65	0.7%	195	2.8%	205	2.5%	330	5.3%	1,185	11.5%	730	12.7%
China	1,025	2.5%	40	0.4%	105	1.5%	125	1.5%	140	2.2%	615	6.0%	415	7.2%
Total - Place of birth of respondent	**41,315**	**100.0%**	**9,555**	**100.0%**	**7,060**	**100.0%**	**8,140**	**100.0%**	**6,275**	**100.0%**	**10,280**	**100.0%**	**5,745**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada

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Aboriginal Identity Population by Area of Residence
2001

	Total - Area of residence		On reserve	Total off reserve	Rural non-reserve	Total urban	Urban non-census metropolitan area	Urban census metropolitan area
Total - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population	897,565	100.0%	7,770	889,800	391,740	498,060	217,620	280,440
Total Aboriginal identity population	17,015	1.9%	7,370	9,635	4,815	4,820	2,105	2,715
North American Indian single response	12,920	1.4%	7,285	5,630	2,615	3,020	1,160	1,835
Métis single response	3,140	0.3%	15	3,115	1,825	1,290	715	570
Inuit single response	350	0.0%	10	345	150	200	35	160
Multiple Aboriginal responses	50	0.0%	0	50	45	10	0	0
Aboriginal responses not included elsewhere	555	0.1%	60	500	185	315	165	145
Total non-Aboriginal population	880,555	98.1%	400	880,160	386,920	493,240	215,520	277,725

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada

Immigrant Population as a Percent of Total Population by County

2001 Census